



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE
**ONE FELON SENTENCED, ANOTHER PLEADS GUILTY
TO ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARM**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that one felon was sentenced and another pleaded guilty in federal court today, in separate and unrelated cases, for illegally possessing firearms. Today's sentencing and guilty plea are part of Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

* **Tarone L. Shipp**, 29, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this afternoon to three years and one month in federal prison without parole.

On Nov. 20, 2003, **Shipp** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Shipp** admitted that he was in possession of a Harrington and Richardson Top Break .32 caliber revolver on Nov. 16, 2001. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Shipp** has a 1992 criminal felony conviction for robbery in Jackson County, Mo.

Shipp was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on May 6, 2003, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by First Assistant U.S. Attorney Roseann A. Ketchmark. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Saleem M. Nelson**, 24, of Kansas City, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this morning to being a felon in possession of a firearm.

By pleading guilty, **Nelson** admitted that he was in possession of a Highpoint rifle on Feb. 12, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession

of any firearm or ammunition. **Nelson** has a 2003 criminal felony conviction for trafficking.

Nelson was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Feb. 26, 2004, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul S. Becker. It was investigated by the North Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms. Project Ceasefire has resulted in federal charges against 590 defendants, and convictions against 501 of those defendants, including 473 who pleaded guilty and 28 who were convicted at trial.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow